



## Complete Summary

### TITLE

Colon cancer: percentage of patients for whom at least 12 regional lymph nodes are removed and pathologically examined for resected colon cancer.

### SOURCE(S)

ASCO/NCCN quality measures: breast and colorectal cancers. Alexandria (VA): American Society of Clinical Oncology, National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc.; 2007 Apr. 5 p.

## Measure Domain

### PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

### SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Does not apply to this measure

## Brief Abstract

### DESCRIPTION

This measure is used to assess the percentage of patients for whom at least 12 regional lymph nodes are removed and pathologically examined for resected colon cancer.

### RATIONALE

**National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Colon Cancer Treatment Guideline and Rectal Cancer Treatment Guideline Recommendations v2.2006:**

**COL-2.** Appropriate colon cancer surgery - colectomy with en bloc removal of regional lymph nodes.

AND

**COL-A.** AJCC and CAP recommend examination of a minimum of 12 lymph nodes to accurately identify stage II colorectal cancers.

**REC-A.** Biopsy or remove clinically suspicious nodes beyond the field of resection if possible. Extended resection not indicated in the absence of clinically suspected nodes.

## **PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT**

Resected colon cancer; lymph node removal and pathological examination

## **DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION**

- Age greater than or equal to 18 at time of diagnosis
- Known or assumed to be first or only cancer diagnosis
- Primary tumors of the colon
- Epithelial malignancy only
- AJCC Stage I, II, or III
- Surgical resection performed at the reporting facility

## **NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION**

Twelve or more regional lymph nodes pathologically examined

## **Evidence Supporting the Measure**

### **EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY**

- A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence

## **Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure**

### **NEED FOR THE MEASURE**

Variation in quality for the performance measured

### **EVIDENCE SUPPORTING NEED FOR THE MEASURE**

Desch CE, McNiff KK, Schneider EC, Schrag D, McClure J, Lepisto E, Donaldson MS, Kahn KL, Weeks JC, Ko CY, Stewart AK, Edge SB. American Society of Clinical Oncology/National Comprehensive Cancer Network Quality Measures. J Clin Oncol 2008 Jul 20;26(21):3631-7. [46 references] [PubMed](#)

## **State of Use of the Measure**

### **STATE OF USE**

Current routine use

**CURRENT USE**

Internal quality improvement

**Application of Measure in its Current Use****CARE SETTING**

Hospitals

**PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE**

Physicians

**LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED**

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

**TARGET POPULATION AGE**

Age greater than or equal to 18 years

**TARGET POPULATION GENDER**

Either male or female

**STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Unspecified

**Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component****INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE**

Unspecified

**ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Unspecified

**BURDEN OF ILLNESS**

Unspecified

**UTILIZATION**

Unspecified

## **COSTS**

Unspecified

## **Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories**

### **IOM CARE NEED**

Getting Better  
Living with Illness

### **IOM DOMAIN**

Effectiveness

## **Data Collection for the Measure**

### **CASE FINDING**

Users of care only

### **DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING**

Patients age 18 years and older with a diagnosis of AJCC Stage I, II or III colon cancer who underwent surgical resection (see the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field)

### **DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME**

Patients associated with provider

### **DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS**

#### **Inclusions**

- Age greater than or equal to 18 at time of diagnosis
- Known or assumed to be first or only cancer diagnosis
- Primary tumors of the colon
- Epithelial malignancy only
- AJCC Stage I, II, or III
- Surgical resection performed at the reporting facility

#### **Exclusions**

Unspecified

### **RELATIONSHIP OF DENOMINATOR TO NUMERATOR**

All cases in the denominator are equally eligible to appear in the numerator

**DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT**

Clinical Condition  
Therapeutic Intervention

**DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW**

Time window is a single point in time

**NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS****Inclusions**

Twelve or more regional lymph nodes pathologically examined

**Exclusions**

Unspecified

**MEASURE RESULTS UNDER CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR POLICYMAKERS**

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

**NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW**

Encounter or point in time

**DATA SOURCE**

Registry data

**LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY**

Individual Case

**PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED**

Unspecified

**Computation of the Measure****SCORING**

Rate

**INTERPRETATION OF SCORE**

Better quality is associated with a higher score

## **ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS**

Unspecified

## **STANDARD OF COMPARISON**

External comparison at a point in time  
External comparison of time trends  
Internal time comparison

## **Evaluation of Measure Properties**

### **EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING**

The American Society of Clinical Oncology/National Comprehensive Cancer Network (ASCO/NCCN) Quality Measures are the result of a collaborative effort to answer the call for evidence-based rigorously developed, scientifically sound measures that can be used in national accountability programs dedicated to improving the quality of cancer care. Several features of these measures are noteworthy. The final measures were derived from measure sets from the National Initiative for Cancer Care Quality (NICCQ) and NCCN that have undergone extensive testing and validation supplemented by nationally accepted practice guidelines. Furthermore, prioritization of candidate measures used an explicit, data-driven process designed to ensure that measure adoption would have the maximal beneficial impact on cancer outcomes in the population.

Refer to the article cited below and in the "Companion Documents" field for additional information.

### **EVIDENCE FOR RELIABILITY/VALIDITY TESTING**

Desch CE, McNiff KK, Schneider EC, Schrag D, McClure J, Lepisto E, Donaldson MS, Kahn KL, Weeks JC, Ko CY, Stewart AK, Edge SB. American Society of Clinical Oncology/National Comprehensive Cancer Network Quality Measures. J Clin Oncol 2008 Jul 20;26(21):3631-7. [46 references] [PubMed](#)

## **Identifying Information**

### **ORIGINAL TITLE**

At least 12 regional lymph nodes are removed and pathologically examined for resected colon cancer.

### **MEASURE COLLECTION**

[ASCO/NCCN Quality Measures: Breast and Colorectal Cancers](#)

### **MEASURE SET NAME**

[Colon Cancer Measures](#)

**SUBMITTER**

American Society of Clinical Oncology  
National Comprehensive Cancer Network

**DEVELOPER**

American Society of Clinical Oncology/National Comprehensive Cancer Network

**FUNDING SOURCE(S)**

American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)

**COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP THAT DEVELOPED THE MEASURE**

Desch CE; McNiff KK; Schneider EC; Schrag D; McClure J; Lepisto E; Donaldson MS; Kahn KL; Weeks JC; Ko CY; Stewart AK; Edge SB

**FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES/OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Certain relationships marked with a "U" are those for which no compensation was received; those relationships marked with a "C" were compensated.

**Employment or Leadership Position:** Joan McClure, National Comprehensive Cancer Network (C); Stephen B. Edge, American College of Surgeons (U), National Comprehensive Cancer Network (U).

**Consultant or Advisory Role:** None.

**Stock Ownership:** None.

**Honoraria:** Eric C. Schneider, ASCO.

**Research Funding:** Eric C. Schneider, ASCO; Katherine L. Kahn -- recieved research support as co-PI of NCCQ study.

**Expert Testimony:** None.

**Other Remuneration:** None.

**ENDORSER**

National Quality Forum

**ADAPTATION**

Measure was adapted from another source.

**RELEASE DATE**

2006 Jan

## **REVISION DATE**

2007 Apr

## **MEASURE STATUS**

This is the current release of the measure.

## **SOURCE(S)**

ASCO/NCCN quality measures: breast and colorectal cancers. Alexandria (VA): American Society of Clinical Oncology, National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc.; 2007 Apr. 5 p.

## **MEASURE AVAILABILITY**

The individual measure, "At Least 12 Regional Lymph Nodes are Removed and Pathologically Examined for Resected Colon Cancer," is published in "ASCO/NCCN Quality Measures: Breast and Colorectal Cancers". This document is available in Portable Document Format (PDF) from the [American Society of Clinical Oncology \(ASCO\) Web site](#).

For more information, please contact the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) at 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22314; Telephone: 571-483-1300; Fax: 703-684-8364; Web site: [www.asco.org/qualitymeasures](http://www.asco.org/qualitymeasures).

## **COMPANION DOCUMENTS**

The following is available:

- Desch CE, McNiff KK, Schneider EC, Schrag D, McClure J, Lepisto E, Donaldson MS, Kahn KL, Weeks JC, Ko CY, Stewart AK, Edge SB. American Society of Clinical Oncology/National Comprehensive Cancer Network Quality Measures. J Clin Oncol 2008 Jul 20;26(21):3631-7.

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## **NQMC STATUS**

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on March 31, 2009. This information was verified by the measure developers on June 5, 2009.

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### **National Comprehensive Cancer Network**

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For more information, please contact the National Comprehensive Cancer Network at 275 Commerce Drive, Suite 300, Fort Washington, PA 19034; Telephone: 215-690-0255; Fax: 215-690-0280; Web site: [www.nccn.org](http://www.nccn.org).

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